

Kept and Ready

1 Peter 1:5

by

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Review of 1 Peter:

The Epistle of First Peter was written to encourage and strengthen the Jewish believers scattered throughout the northeastern part of Asia Minor.

Their faith was being sorely tested through persecution and trials.

Review of 1 Peter:

Abounding in exhortations and references from Old Testament history, the epistle was very practical and helpful to the believing Jews as they daily faced severe times of testing.

Sufferings and glory keynote the contents.

Review of 1 Peter:

From vv. 3 and 4 we came to understand:

1. God is great in mercy.
2. God causes us to be born again to a lively or living hope.
3. God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.
4. God promises an inheritance to those whom He fathers.
5. (And) God is keeping that inheritance so that it will never, ever perish or soil or fade.

Introduction

Several concepts we shall see today:

Our inheritance is eternal, and so is our security.

We are guarded and protected by God's power.

Through faith we enable God's power to be effective in our lives.

Our inheritance is ready to be revealed at the return of Christ

1 Peter 1:3-7

- An expectant hope [vv. 3-4]
- An experiential faith [vv. 5-7]
- As it relates to our present
- As it relates to our prospect

Dr. John Phillips, Exploring the Epistles of Peter

--our present

The Believer's Study Bible

Those who have been [begotten/born again] are guaranteed the benefits of that salvation, not because they are able to keep themselves saved, but because they are guarded by the power of God.

our present

Kept: *Vine's*: A military term. Lit., garrisoned. Rev., guarded. our present participle indicates something in progress, a continuous process of protection. Hence, lit., 'who are being guarded.'

"The inheritance is kept; the heirs are guarded" (Bengel)

our present

We are kept/guarded/protected from:

- ourselves; discredited by our own wrong-doings.
- others; disqualified by enemies without.

JMJ: Not only is the inheritance divinely guarded, those who possess it are also kept [protected] by the power of God from doing anything to forfeit it or be severed from it.

our present

God's power is His sovereign omnipotence that continuously protects His elect.

Romans 8:31-39; Jude 24

our present

We are kept by the power of God...

The word for *power* as we might expect is the great word *dunamis*.

Strong's: force; specifically miraculous power: - ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

our present

JP: God does not just stand back after [we are] born again. He uses his divine power to protect us all through life for the salvation ready to be revealed.

our present

JP: What Peter wants us to see here is that God means for his people to be profoundly secure in him.

He wants us to feel that God himself is doing everything that must be done to guarantee our final, eternal salvation.

our present

Spurgeon: The inheritance is kept for you, and you are kept for the inheritance. The word is a military one, it signifies a city garrisoned and defended. The enemy pour in their shot, they keep up the fire day and night, and set the city on a blaze, and even thus Satan bombards us with temptations, and beleaguers us with

our present

Spurgeon: ...all the hosts of hell. Herein is our confidence, our great Captain has walled us around, he has appointed salvation for walls and bulwarks. We are safe, though all the devils of hell surround us, for we are garrisoned by omnipotence. Each believer is kept by that same power.

our present

...through faith...persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; constancy in such profession; - assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

our present

Spurgeon: Every believer is kept by the power of God, but the power of God does not produce in us sloth but faith.

our present

From what is God protecting his elect?

Notice several things:

There is a salvation ready to be revealed.

We are saved now, but our salvation is not complete.

There is much more grace and glory to be experienced.

There is danger on the way to salvation in heaven.

our present

Notice several things: [continued]

We need ongoing protection after our conversion.

There is a battle to be fought.

Our protection comes from God. More specifically, from the power of God.

our present

The means God uses to protect us is faith.

What is the only thing that can keep us from salvation ready to be revealed in the last time?

our present

Death won't keep us from salvation.

Suffering won't keep us from heaven.

We need protection from Satan.

We need protection from overwhelming temptations.

our present

What is the one thing that cuts us off from heaven? The answer is unbelief.

The only thing that can keep us from heaven is forsaking our faith in Christ, and turning to other hopes, other treasures.

He inspires and nourishes and strengthens and builds our faith.

In doing this he secures us against unbelief.

our present

Our security is not in making heaven unconditional.

Our security is in God's infallible commitment to fulfill the conditions of heaven.

Jesus prayed that Peter's faith fail not.

He caused us to be born again by our faith; and he protects us on the way to heaven by preserving our faith.

our present

Salvation through faith is gloriously and invincibly secure.

We have a great God and a great salvation!

our prospect

This security of 'being kept by the power of God' looks beyond this life and human history for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

...unto salvation... to 'rescue' or 'deliver', and it denotes the full, final, eternal life God has not yet *finally* completed.

Salvation is in three tenses.

The NT implicitly reveals a three-fold chronology for salvation.

●The past aspect of salvation is called *justification*.

●our present aspect of salvation is called sanctification.

●This future aspect of salvation is called glorification.

our prospect

This keeping is complete and continuous.

It will never end until we shall need keeping no longer.

Spurgeon: This means that we shall not only be kept till our souls reach heaven, but we shall be kept till the advent.

our prospect

The future aspect of salvation is particularly said to be *ready*, that is, complete and already awaiting our arrival.

John 14:1-3

Revealed: points us forward to the great day when Christ will be revealed in all of His glory and power.

Revelation 1:7

But future salvation is also connected to this *end* of human history—*the last time*.

Matthew 25:31-34

So what?

Are you rejoicing that you are kept, guarded and protected by an omnipotent God today?

Are you exercising faith that God gives to rejoice and have hope when things on earth are bleak and bad?

Are you looking for the return of Jesus Christ?